



Consul General's Message

Dear Friends of Ireland,

Welcome to the second edition of our newsletter – see first edition [here](#). The aim of the newsletter is to give you a sense of the work of the Consulate, and our State Agencies Enterprise Ireland, IDA, Tourism Ireland and Bord Bia who work with us. The start of the year was very busy, as we celebrated local festivals including Makar Sankranti, and an exhibition 'Roopantar Transformation', at 47A Khotachi Wadi Mumbai, curated by Irishman based in Ahmedabad, Arthur Duff, and featuring the work of Irish artist Sasha Sykes. We met



CG Anita Kelly meeting the Governor of Maharashtra on the occasion of presenting her credentials.

with the Irish contingent in Pune, and celebrated India's Republic Day, as we looked forward to St Brigid's Day. Signalling the start of spring in Ireland, St Brigid is celebrated as a modern day champion of women's creativity and empowerment, and we hosted an evening themed on Gender Diversity and Women as Leaders at the Consul General's Residence in Malabar Hill. A visit to the wonderful women of SEWA in Ahmedabad rounded off our engagement, and we also took in a visit to GIFT city, Gujarat, to visit the IFSC and scope potential for engagement with Irish fintechs.

We engaged in G20 dialogue on Climate – Ireland has a big commitment to Climate Justice and is focussed on supporting countries through climate adaption finance. The Education in Ireland Roadshow came next, welcoming Ireland's Higher Education Institutes for a whistle stop tour across five centres in India, meeting students interested in further study in Ireland. Many Indian graduates benefit from Ireland's 'Stay Back' visa scheme and gain valuable experience in critical roles in ICT, pharma, fintech and agritech.

It was soon time to don the green and celebrate St Patrick's Day and we did it in style this year, welcoming Minister Roderic O'Gorman to Mumbai for an epic two days. Meeting with community activists at SNEHA and at the Akshara Centre, business leaders, and SNDT University. We held our National Day reception at Jade Garden, Nehru Centre, and we didn't let the Irish 'special effects' – a welcome touch of home in the form of a shower of rain – dampen the spirits! Our thanks to our sponsors Everseen, an Irish company with

Continued on page 2

Continued from front page

bases in Hyderabad and Pune offering Artificial Intelligence based solutions to retail clients globally, and Kerry Group, Irelands multinational food ingredient company with operations in Bengaluru, Haryana and here in Mumbai. We rounded off our St Patricks festivities by screening 'An Gorta Mór' a film telling the fascinating story of the famine-time migration from Ireland to India of one John Footman, and his descendants around the world today.

April was also busy with a visit to Goa, meeting the Chief Minister, and visiting Brother Maurice Finn - do read his story of a life of service in education below, in our new 'Irish in Western India' section. I also visited Kerry Group, and toured their highly impressive, pristine manufacturing facility outside New Delhi, report below. So far, in May, we celebrated Europe Day with our EU colleagues, proudly telling the story of EU50 - Ireland's positive experience and growth as we mark 50 years of EU Membership. We hosted the India-Ireland Business Association, a power house of Indian interests doing business in Ireland, followed by a seminar on Investing in Ireland. This was led by tax and foreign direct investment specialists from Ireland.

What's next? In June, we have two film screenings coming up in Goa, and a Yeats evening on 13th at NCPA – let us know if you would like to join - and watch this space!

Le gach dea ghúí,

Anita



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- Step 1** Apply as early as possible on www.visas.inis.gov.ie
- Step 2** Book an appointment on www.vfsglobal.com
- Step 3** Submit your biometrics and supporting documentation
- Step 4** Wait for your decision and return of your passport
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LÁ FHÉILE BRÍDE

Cruthaitheacht na mBan a Cheiliúradh

ST BRIGID'S DAY

Celebrating the Creativity of Women

St Brigid's Day (SBD), Lá Fhéile Bríde, is an annual celebration of the creativity and achievements of Irish women, in the arts, science, business, politics etc. To mark St Brigid's Day, the Consul General, Anita Kelly, hosted a beautiful evening themed on gender equality, and women as leaders. Women across all sections of the society attended and discussed their experiences, and what they learned throughout their careers.

The Consul General visited Sophia College undergraduate women's college to speak to the students and faculty on gender equality for St Brigid's Day. The autonomous college, affiliated to University of Mumbai, is inclusive, holistic and dynamic.

Continuing St Brigid's Day engagement, the Consul General visited Ahmedabad to meet with the wonderful leaders of the Self Employed Women's Association to support their work. SEWA is a National Trade Union with 2.5 million informal women workers and representative members from 18 states in India. SEWA works with women help them attain economic freedom, and security in areas including their work, income, food. This leads to improved social security and health care, and stronger decision-making power in their own lives and livelihoods

The visit to Gujarat ended with a visit to Gift City – India's first smart city. The Consul General met with representatives of International Financial Services Centres Authority to scope potential for Irish Fintech, Regtech, Greentech and Education Institutions in this fantastic location.



St Patrick's Day

The Consulate General of Ireland Mumbai received a visit from the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth of Ireland, Mr. Roderic O’Gorman T.D.

Minister O’Gorman’s first engagement was with SNEHA - the Society for Nutrition, Education & Health Action. There was a presentation on the work of organisation members to strengthen public health systems, improve anti-natal care and reduce domestic violence. The Minister then interacted with a mix of community activists and young people to find out how they are empowered to access health services, improve health outcomes and to call out harassment, abuse and gender stereotyping.

The Minister also visited the Akshara Centre. The organisation works for the empowerment of women and girls focusing on breaking the cycle of poverty by keeping girls in education. Akshara works to build the confidence of women and girls to access services. They run courses to change attitudes of young men and women towards patriarchy and gender based violence. They also work with institutions using community research to make spaces safer and reduce casual sexism.

The SPD reception was held at the Jade Garden. The chief guest was Mrs Manisha Patankar – Mhaiskar, Principal Secretary & Chief Protocol Officer, Government of Maharashtra. Entertainment was provided by two Irish musicians playing traditional music. The event went very well and even the completely unseasonal sudden rain was viewed only as an authentic Irish addition to the programme.



Irish in Western India

Brother Maurice Finn, Regina Mundi High School, Chicalim, Goa.

A native of Youghal, Co Cork, at over 90 years young Bro. Maurice is the sole Irish Christian Brother remaining in the Province, and he has made a truly remarkable contribution in education and social service in India. He now lives on the Regina Mundi Campus in Goa, and remains active within the school community and with his confreres. Having joined the Christian brothers in 1946, Bro. Maurice came to India 1964 and has been involved in education in high schools, villages, with orphans and street children, in vernacular education and informal adult education across the province. In 1971 he was assigned to Goa, and set up and became first Principal of Regina Mundi High School. The school is proudly recognised for quality education and personal development in Goa, and now educates 1,200 boys and girls from KG to Class X. In 1985 Brother Finn was one of three assigned to Ahmedabad to learn Gujarati, to open a school in that medium in the tribal belt, Surat Zilla, and Jagruti High School, a school for the Gamit people, was opened in 1986.



Ireland is associated with a proud record in education in India, and the Congregation of Christian Brothers, established in Ireland in 1802 by Edmund Rice, is a large part of this legacy. The first Irish Christian Brothers arriving in India in 1848, and at the time India gained her independence the Christian Brothers schools were modelled on the best of British public schools; the collapse of colonialism ushered in a new era, with a focus on improving the lot of the less fortunate. The Christian Brothers returned to their original mission to actively work in underdeveloped areas with marginal communities, and all schools opened from 1960 onwards had a mission to serve the marginalised.

Screening of *An Górtá Mór*

In late March, the Consulate screened *An Gorta Mór: Passage to India*.

In this award-winning documentary, Ian Michael traces the journey of his ancestor John Footman from Clonakilty in 1847 aboard the *Kent* to Madras (now Chennai), in India. He travels back to his ancestral home and reflects on the meaning of Irish Indian identity today.



The screening was followed by an interactive discussion between members of the Indian Documentary Producers Association and the makers of *An Gorta Mór: Passage to India*.

CG meets Chief Minister of Goa

The CG Anita Kelly had a fruitful meeting with Dr. Pramod Sawant, Chief Minister of Goa on opportunities for cooperation on trade and education, and on our common historical and cultural heritage.

Whilst in Goa, the CG also met some Irish citizens living in Goa.



Visit to Kerry Group

The CG Anita Kelly, visited the Kerry Group at their plant in Haryana.



From Ireland to India, and across the globe, Kerry displays a consistent commitment to excellence, leading the field in sustainable nutrition & food ingredients. We are so proud to work with Kerry for a sustainable future.



Sai Leela Foundation

The CG was proud to support this inspiring self help group by visiting in April. The group focus on skills training, women's empowerment and healthcare for the underprivileged and is led by Rashmi Upadhyay.



Europe Day — 9 May

It was a special Europe Day in Mumbai - as Ireland celebrates 50 years in the EU. Being a member of the EU has helped Ireland develop into one of the most open, globalised, advanced and progressive societies in the world.

There are now 11 EU consulates in Mumbai. [#StrongerTogether](#)
We look forward to the next 50 years!



Irish State Agencies in Mumbai — An Introduction



IDA Ireland is the Irish government's foreign direct investment agency. IDA Ireland's India office is headquartered in Mumbai. In line with the sectoral strengths of Ireland, the India team target the ICT (services and product companies), Life Sciences (Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices), Manufacturing sectors especially the Future Mobility sector and aim to generate interest in the Financial Services sector.

Some Indian companies in Ireland include: **TCS, Infosys, Tech Mahindra, Wipro, HCL, NIIT Ltd, Kellton Tech, BrowserStack, Xoxoday, Aspire Systems, Deepak Fasteners, Ex-cel Plastics, Wockhardt, SMT, Sequent Scientific, Biotech VisionCare, Unichem Ltd**

These companies work across a range of functions, from having EMEA/ EU headquarters to managing supply chain, holding and exploiting IP from Ireland to manufacturing, hosting client services /delivery centres, development centres, Centres of Excellence and R&D functions in Ireland.

For IDA's ezines and Innovation Ireland publications one can sign up here: [Latest News | IDA Ireland](#)



Enterprise Ireland is the trade and innovation agency of the Irish government. It invests in the most innovative Irish companies through all stages of their growth and connects them to international customers across multiple industries including education and edtech, life sciences, telecommunications, ICT, IoT, Banking, Fintech, Aviation, Aerospace and Agritech..

At our office in **Mumbai**, our local sectoral specialists work with customers to understand their unique challenges and match them with Irish suppliers that can deliver leading edge products and services.

Our goal is to simplify and enhance the purchase process for customers and build successful, long-term business relationships between international companies and Irish suppliers.

[Enterprise Ireland's Online Newsletter - Enterprise Ireland \(enterprise-ireland.com\)](#)



Tourism Ireland is the marketing body responsible for marketing the island of Ireland overseas. It is represented in India through a Mumbai based agent, Beautiful Planet.

Go to www.ireland.com to sign up to Tourism Ireland's newsletter and #FillYourHeartWithIreland or follow @GoToIrelandInd on Twitter



Launch of the IIBA Foundation

In May, the Consulate and IDA hosted the launch of the IIBA Foundation. It was attended by senior executives from Ireland and India including representatives from the Irish Embassy in India, Indian government officials, industry leaders, and prominent members of the business community.

The Ireland India Business Association (IIBA) was formed in Ireland in 2008 and is dedicated to fostering commercial links between Indian and Irish businesses. The formation of IIBA Foundation (India) strengthens IIBA's commitment to knowledge sharing and networking among Irish and Indian business communities as well as facilitating bilateral trade and cooperation between the two nations.



Contact: chair-india@iiba.ie for more information on member services, events, trade missions.

Investing in Ireland Event

In May, the Consulate and IDA hosted a fascinating advisory community networking and knowledge-sharing discussion on **Investing in Ireland** with insights from Páraic Hayes, Director – APAC region, IDA Ireland and Sonya Manzor, Head of Tax at William Fry LLP (Dublin).



Coming Up

3 - 5 June: G20 Film Festival Goa

CG Mumbai is proud to take part in the G20 Film Festival Goa, to mark World Environment Day. Two Irish films will be shown on 4 May at the Entertainment Society of Goa Complex, *Between Land and Sea* and *Bog Graffiti*. Contact EventsMumbai@dfa.ie if interested in attending.

13 June: Unveiling of bust of W.B. Yeats at NCPA

In recognition of Yeats' close friendship with Indian poet and fellow Nobel Laureate, Rabindranath Tagore, and of the strong and growing cultural links between India and Ireland, Dr Abdul and Mrs Katharine Bulbulia commissioned a sculpture of Yeats by Rory Breslin to be presented to an eminent Indian cultural institution. The bust will be unveiled at the NCPA on 13 July—Yeats' birthday.

June 16: Bloomsday

James Joyce's *Ulysses* takes place over the course of one day, 16 June, and each year fans celebrate the book by enacting scenes throughout the day, now known as Bloomsday.

Watch out on social media for events across the world to mark the celebration of Bloomsday 2023.

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